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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 16, 2011

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FCC Issues Comprehensive Data Request in Special Access Proceeding

Collecting Critical Information—Including on Packet-Based Services—To Ensure Policies Are Promoting Effective Competition in Business Broadband Market; Key to Jobs, Economic Growth

Washington, D.C. – Taking another important step in its business broadband agenda, the FCC today asked for key information regarding the special access market—services that link cell phone towers, carry data to the Internet, and serve high-volume business customers. These dedicated, high-capacity links are offered by local telephone companies and purchased by businesses and competitive communications providers. The National Broadband Plan recognized that special access services play a significant role in the availability and pricing of broadband services and recommended that the FCC take steps to ensure that special access rates, terms, and conditions are just and reasonable.

In the <u>Public Notice (PN)</u> released today, the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau requested detailed data on special access prices, revenues, and expenditures. The request includes information on services such as DS1 and DS3 services, as well as packet-based services such as Ethernet. The PN also seeks data about the nature of terms and conditions for special access services.

Gathering this data is the next critical step in the FCC's review of whether special access rates, terms, and conditions are just and reasonable.

Docket No: 05-25

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